



DEPARTMENT BULLETIN

A
13-120
06/17/13

Response to Mental Health Calls with Armed Suspects

Members of the SFPD respond to thousands of calls annually to assist persons experiencing a mental health crisis.

Officers **shall** promptly request a supervisor to respond to an incident that involves the following:

1. A call of an armed person who appears to be suffering from a mental illness or is in an apparent altered mental status, or
2. When on-viewing or arriving at the scene of a call and learning the incident involves an armed person who appears to be suffering from a mental illness or is in an apparent altered mental status.

The supervisor shall acknowledge the request on the radio, promptly respond to the scene and monitor the radio while en-route. Upon arrival at the scene, the supervisor shall assume command of the incident.

In such circumstances, if officers have reasonable cause to believe that the person suffering an apparent mental crisis is not a threat to *any other person*, the officers shall observe, maintain a safe distance, and attempt to stabilize the scene until the arrival of the supervisor who will assume command.

Under no circumstance shall officers jeopardize their own safety or that of any other person in attempting to interpret or apply this directive. The goal of this procedure is to allow for sufficient time to deescalate the situation when there is reasonable cause to believe that no person, other than the person requiring mental health services, is in danger of death or serious bodily injury.

Members are reminded of the requirements in DGO 5.02, I.C.1.b. which reads, in part:

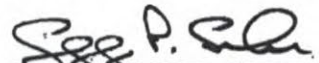
However, an officer may not discharge a firearm at a person who presents a danger only to him or herself, and there is no reasonable cause to believe that the person poses an imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or any other person.

Members should be aware of following mental health services that may be a resource in contained situations when there is no risk to any other person:

Mobile Crisis Team	355 - 8300
Monday - Friday	0830 - 2300 hours
Saturdays and Holidays	1200 - 2300 hours
Sundays	Not Operational

Dore Urgent Care Clinic	553-3100
24/7 Services	

Psychiatric Emergency Services at SFGH
206 - 8125
24/7 Services (Ask for the Charge Nurse)


GREGORY P. SUHR
Chief of Police

SFDPA - 0164-16 - 002215

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11-113
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Response to Mental Health Calls With Armed Suspects

Members of the SFPD respond to thousands of calls annually to assist persons experiencing a mental health crisis. Effective immediately, when responding to the call of an armed person who appears to be suffering from a mental illness or is in an apparent altered mental status – or when officers on-view or arrive at the scene of a call and learn that the incident involves an armed person who appears to be suffering from a mental illness, or is in an apparent altered mental status, the officer shall immediately request a supervisor who shall respond to the scene.

In such circumstances, when the person suffering an apparent mental crisis is not a threat to *any other person*, officers shall: observe, maintain a safe distance and attempt to stabilize the scene until the arrival of the supervisor who shall assume command.

Under no circumstances shall officers jeopardize their own safety or that of any other person in attempting to interpret or apply this directive. The goal of the procedure is to allow for sufficient time to deescalate the situation when no person, other than the person requiring mental health services, is in danger of death or serious bodily injury.

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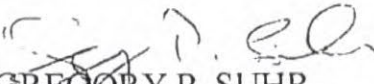
“However, an officer may not discharge a firearm at a person who presents a danger only to him or herself, and there is no reasonable cause to believe that the person poses an imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or any other person.”

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